

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 04913 030727Z

12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAJ-01 SAM-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /118 W

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R 021530Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9627

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

US MISSION NATO 459

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E.0. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MINT, SP

SUBJ: PRINCE JUAN CARLOS TO PRESIDE AT COUNCIL OF  
MINISTERS MEETING AUGUST 9

REF: MADRID 4853

1. MINISTRY OF INFORMATION ANNOUNCED AUGUST 2 THAT  
PRINCE JUAN CARLOS, ACTING HEAD OF STATE, WILL PRESIDE  
AT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING AUGUST 9 IN EL PARDO  
PALACE. PREVIOUS EVENING IT HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT  
PRESIDENT ARIAS NAVARRO HAD CALLED FOR MINISTERIAL  
MEETING AT THE PRESIDENCIA FOR AUGUST 8. (PRESIDENT CUSTOMARILY  
HOLD MINISTERIAL MEETING ONE DAY PRIOR TO MEETING CHAIRED BY  
FRANCO.)

2. COMMENT: THIS WILL BE THE FIRST COUNCIL OF  
MINISTERS MEETING TO BE PRESIDED OVER BY THE PRINCE AND THE  
SECOND TO BE PRESIDED OVER BY ANY OTHER THAN FRANCO HIMSELF,  
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PAGE 02 MADRID 04913 030727Z

SINCE HE CAME TO POWER (THE FIRST WAS THE MEETING CHAIRED

BY ARIAS NAVARRO JULY 19, THE DAY THAT IT WAS DECIDED TO  
MAKE PRINCE JUAN CARLOS THE ACTING HEAD OF STATE).  
IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT SCHEDULED MEETING AUGUST 9 WILL BE  
HELD IN FRANCO'S PALACE. IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER OR NOT  
FRANCO HIMSELF WILL STILL BE IN TOWN. IT IS CLEAR,  
HOWEVER, THAT PRINCE WILL STILL RETAIN INTERIM POWERS  
AS ACTING HEAD OF STATE CONFERRED ON HIM JULY 19.  
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING WILL PROBABLY BE THE ONLY  
MEETING OF ITS TYPE DURING ENTIRE MONTH OF AUGUST  
INASMUCH AS IT HAS BEEN TRADITIONAL TO HOLD ONLY ONE  
SUCH MEETING DURING THE MONTH ALTHOUGH IT WAS CUSTOMARILY  
HELD IN LA CORUNA, NOT FAR FROM FRANCO'S SUMMER RESIDENCE.  
NORMALLY, THE FIRST SUBSEQUENT MEETING OF THE CABINET UNDER THE  
CHAIRSHIP OF THE HEAD OF STATE IS HELD AT THE SUMMER  
CAPITAL OF SAN SEBASTIAN IN EARLY SEPTEMBER. APPARENTLY  
IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT JUAN CARLOS WILL CONTINUE AS ACTING  
HEAD OF STATE AT LEAST THROUGH PART OF AUGUST WHICH WOULD  
ALLOW TIME FOR FRANCO TO RECOVER FULLY FROM HIS RECENT ILLNESS.  
LOCAL NEWSPAPERS HAVE MADE SOMETHING OF A FUSS ABOUT THE NUMBER  
OF NEW LAWS PROMULGATED IN THE NAME OF PRINCE JUAN CARLOS IN  
THE OFFICIAL BULLETIN. ALL OF THESE LAWS OF COURSE HAD BEEN  
DECIDED UPON PREVIOUSLY. JUAN CARLOS DOES NOT AS YET  
APPEAR TO BE WIELDING ANY REAL POWER, HOWEVER, AND THE  
CHAIRING OF A COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING IN FRANCO'S PALACE,  
RATHER THAN HIS OWN PALACE, TENDS TO PLACE EVEN THIS ACTION  
UNDER FRANCO'S SHADOW.

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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
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